

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, OAS

SUBJECT: OUTLOOK FOR CIECC MEETING

FOR AMB. MAILLIARD AND AMB. JOVA

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON AMB. CABRERA MUÑOZ-LEDO, FONSEC DIRECTOR IN CHIEF FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS, TO ASK HIS VIEWS ON UPCOMING CIECC MEETING HERE BEGINNING JAN. 27. CABRERA WAS FORTHCOMING AND EXPRESSED HOPE WE MIGHT MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT AS DATE FOR MEETING APPROACHED.

2. CABRERA SAID THERE WERE AT LEAST TWO ITEMS OF CIECC BUSINESS WHICH WOULD DESERVE MORE THAN ROUTINE ATTENTION AND PREPARATION BY USDEL. FIRST OF THESE RELATES TO OAS RESTRUCTURING PROJECT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR CIECC. CABRERA NOTED THAT CEESI HAD NOW REACHED POINT WHERE IT WAS ACTIVELY CONSIDERING CIECC'S FATE, AND CEP/CIECC HAD DETERMINED THAT AT THIS MEETING AN ATTEMPT SHOULD BE MADE TO AGREE ON A POSITION WHICH WOULD SERVE AS AN INPUT INTO CEESI DEBATE IN WASHINGTON. AS FAR AS MEXICO WAS CONCERNED, CABRERA ADDED, IT WAS NOT WEDDED TO ANY PARTICULAR FORMULA FOR A RESTRUCTURED CIECC ROLE BUT IT WAS CONVINCED THAT THERE SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE CLEARLY DEFINED SCIENCE/EDUCATION/CULTURE FOCUS OF SOME SORT WITHIN INTER- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AMERICAN SYSTEM.

3. SECOND ITEM RELATES TO UPCOMING MFM IN BUENOS AIRES AND TO WORKING GROUP ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. CABRERA SAID THAT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCE OF VIEWS AMONG CIECC MEMBERS OVER VALUE AND APPROPRIATENESS OF YET ANOTHER HEMISPERIC FORUM ON TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER (HE MENTIONED APPARENT DUPLICATION OF EFFORTS BY UN-ECOSOC AND ECLA IN THIS SAME FIELD). HE COMMENTED THAT THIS CONCERN WAS PARTICULARLY GERMANE IN VIEW OF CONTROVERSY WHICH HAD DEVELOPED WITHIN MFM WORKING GROUP AND FACT THAT IT WAS SCHEDULED TO MEET IN MONTEVIDEO ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AFTER CIECC RECESSES HERE. CABRERA SAID HE EXPECTED SOME DELEGATIONS WHICH ARE UNFAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD WORKING GROUP (HE DID NOT SPECIFY WHICH) TO MAKE PITCH WITHIN CIECC FOR ASSERTING LATTER ORGANIZATION'S PRIMACY IN THIS FIELD.

4. AMB. CABRERA ALSO MADE STRONG APPEAL FOR U.S. TO RECONSIDER ITS ABSTENTION FROM CULTURAL FUND. HE ARGUED THAT U.S. POLICY IN THIS REGARD WAS INCONSISTENT, SINCE IT PARTICIPATED IN UNESCO WHICH HE SAID WAS PERFECTLY ANALOGOUS ORGANIZATION WITHIN UN ORBIT (CABRERA WAS OBVIOUSLY UNAWARE OF UNESCO FUNDING PROHIBITION IN 1974 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT, AND EMBOFF DID NOT RAISE THE POINT). MOREOVER, U.S. ABSTENTION FROM FUND WAS TAKING ON SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS, SINCE FUND WAS MUCH MORE THAN MERE SUBSIDY PROGRAM FOR LATIN ARTISTS AND MUSICIANS. CABRERA WARNED THAT PRESSURES FOR U.S. PARTICIPATION WOULD PROBABLY TAKE SHAPE AS SOME SORT OF FORMAL RESOLUTION AT THIS YEAR'S CIECC MEETING. (IN VIEW OF HIS POSITION AS CHAIRMAN OF CULTURAL COMMITTEE, CABRERA WAS OBVIOUSLY EXPRESSING SOMETHING MORE THAN AN IMPARTIAL OBSERVER'S OPINION.)

5. WITH REGARD TO MEETING'S ORGANIZATION, CABRERA SAID THAT HE STILL HAD NOT RECEIVED BASIC DOCUMENTS AND WORKING PAPERS FROM SECRETARIAT -- A SERIOUS FAILURE ON PART OF LATTER, HE THOUGHT, ESPECIALLY SINCE MEXICO WAS HOSTING MEETING. NEVERTHELESS, HE UNDERSTOOD THAT SESSION WOULD CONSIST OF A PLENARY, A GENERAL COMMITTEE (WHERE RESTRUCTURING QUESTION WOULD BE THRASHED OUT), AND THREE FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEES. HE ASSUMED PROBLEM OF COORDINATION WITH MFM

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WORKING GROUP WOULD BE HANDLED BY FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

6. IN GENERAL TERMS, CABRERA AGREED THAT CIECC MEETINGS HAD TRADITION OF "BEHAVING BETTER" THAN MANY OTHER HEMISPERIC FORUMS -- PERHAPS BECAUSE THEIR SUBJECT MATTER TENDED TO PLACE DEBATE ON MORE ELEVATED PLANE. HOWEVER, HE SEEMED TO TAKE CARE NOT TO PREDICT THAT THIS YEAR'S

MEETING WOULD BE ALTOGETHER FREE FROM POLITICAL FIREWORKS,
PARTICULARLY WITHIN CONTEXT OF SYSTEM'S CURRENT AGONIES
OVER RESTRUCTURING.

7. CABRERA PROMISED TO CONTACT EMBOFF AS SOON AS
WORKING PAPERS WERE RECEIVED FROM SECRETARIAT AND TO
SHARE THESE WITH EMBASSY. HE URGED THAT WE CONTINUE TO
CONSULT AS PREPARATIONS FOR MEETING TOOK FIRMER SHAPE.
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